

Macroglossum stellatarum L. was exceptionally common and was observed every day on almost every buddleia bush even feeding in heavy rain.

The moth provisionally identified as *S. exigua* was then shown at the BENHS exhibition and evoked considerable debate as to its identity; the consensus of opinion was that it was probably *Spodoptera cilium* Guen. and this has since been confirmed as such by Dr Ian Kitching at the British Museum (Natural History).

S. cilium is a species whose normal range is essentially African and Eastern although it does extend into southern Spain and France as well as the Canaries. The diagnostic feature in the male is the ciliated antennae which are very distinct from *S. exigua* when viewed under a binocular microscope. Although the species is variable there are certain characteristics which are reasonably consistent. The forewings are slightly broader than *S. exigua* and the moth is generally darker, more variegated and less glossy in appearance. Characteristic of *S. exigua* is the pinkish coloration of the orbicular stigma, in *S. cilium* this stigma is pale but not pink. The reniform stigma is conspicuously dark. On the hind wings the brownish shading which runs up the veins from the outer margin towards the base in *S. exigua* only extends a short distance and the overall appearance of the hindwing is a translucent white lacking the pearly sheen of *S. exigua*. At rest my example sat in a very different posture to that adopted by *S. exigua*. The specimen will be photographed for publication in the 1991 exhibition plate in the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*.

The larva feeds on various species of grass and reaches pest status in parts of Africa especially favouring close cut turf on golf courses.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Dr Ian Kitching for confirming the specimen and for providing the article on the genus *Spodoptera*.

Reference

Calle, J. *Noctuidos Espanoles*.

Brown and Dewhurst, The genus *Spodoptera* in Africa and the Near East. *Bull. Ent. Res.* 65: 221-262.

Ledra aurita (L. 1758) (Auch.: Cicadellidae) at light in Worcestershire (SO94).

On the night of 2.viii.1990 an adult *Ledra aurita* (L.) was taken in an m.v. light trap at Little Comberton, Worcestershire. This is a southern species in Britain, known to be attracted to light. It breeds in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire very locally on oak (*Quercus robur* L.).— H.S. HEMSLEY-HALL, Orchard Drive, Little Comberton, Worcs WR10 3EP.